



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 24, 1995

Mr. David M. Douglas
Assistant Chief
Legal Services
Texas Department of Public Safety
P.O. Box 4087
Austin, Texas 78773-0001

OR95-1131

Dear Mr. Douglas:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 34251.

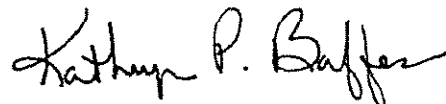
The Department of Public Safety (the "department") received an open records request for a copy of the department's Traffic Law Enforcement Manual. You inform us that you have released portions of the manual to the requestor. You contend that some portions of the manual contain information that is excepted from required disclosure pursuant to section 552.108 of the Government Code, commonly referred to as the law enforcement exception. You have submitted for our review the portions of the manual that are at issue.

You state that the two portions of the manual submitted for our review relate to enforcement policies and procedures regarding traffic offenses and guidelines for setting up roadblocks used to apprehend escaping criminals. You argue that to release this information would unduly interfere with law enforcement by allowing an individual to gain the knowledge to violate the law and avoid detection.

Internal records of law enforcement agencies may be withheld if their release will unduly interfere with law enforcement or crime prevention. Open Records Decision No. 531 (1989) at 2 (*quoting Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706, 710 (Tex. 1977)). We have reviewed the submitted portions of the manual. We conclude that release of some of these portions would unduly interfere with law enforcement. You may withhold the marked portions of the manual you submitted for our review.

We are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and may not be relied upon as a previous determination under section 552.301 regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathryn P. Baffes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Kathryn P. Baffes
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KPB/rho

Ref: ID# 34251

Enclosures: Marked documents

cc: Mr. R. W. Godbey
P.O. Box 185175
Fort Worth, Texas 76181
(w/o enclosures)